

News Story Summary

Baseball fans around the nation are enjoying the playoffs and awaiting the World Series. For many people, their favorite team never made it past September. They are home, watching the games and wondering “what if?”

For many decision-makers in Major League Baseball, they are no doubt questioning their trade deadline moves and wondering if what they did in July could have made the difference in where they are spending October.

A little over 10 weeks ago, the Oakland Athletics and the Detroit Tigers felt comfortable and secure in their trade-deadline moves. Oakland acquired pitcher Jon Lester; Detroit landed pitcher David Price. They had high hopes and expectations from these veteran pitchers. However, the results were not what either team hoped for. While both teams made it to the post-season, neither team was able to win one playoff game. Pinning their hopes on their starting pitchers proved to be a costly mistake.

(For more on this story, search the Internet using the term “Big ticket trades October sorrows.”)

Focus Attention

As group members arrive, briefly discuss the Major League Baseball playoffs: which team is doing well, which team is struggling, opinions on who will ultimately win the World Series.

Share insights from the news about the disappointing results of the Oakland Athletics and Detroit Tigers in the post-season. Contrast the high-hopes that each team had when they made trades for starting pitching in July with the realities they faced when October baseball arrived.

Comment: Often our expectations of someone are either distorted or unrealistic. We hang our hopes on a person who is only human, a person who will ultimately not meet expectations. Today our study in Hebrews will point us to the One who will never fail us, the One who gave His life so that we could be saved. The writer of Hebrews tells us He is “holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinner, and exalted above the heavens” (Heb. 7:26). As we examine the truth found in this passage, we can know with certainty that Jesus is the only One who is able to save us.

Begin with prayer for the study.

Challenge

State: In contrast to the Major League teams who hung their hopes on wise trade decisions, starting pitchers, we have the assurance that Jesus Christ, our High Priest, can be trusted and that He will never disappoint.

Ask: As America prepares for the beginning of the 2014 World Series, many fans, coaches, general managers and owners are confident that their team will win it all. But their confidence rests on circumstances and on players who are only human, not superheroes as some would like to imagine. Today you have the opportunity to experience the ultimate win by accepting Christ as Savior—a perfect High Priest who gave His life as a sacrifice for you.

Encourage group members who have not begun a personal relationship with Jesus to do so today.

Close in prayer and make sure members know you are willing to speak privately with anyone who has questions about salvation.